CLAIMS:

1.   A dental image data processing unit configured to receive a set of image data and provide the image data to at least one external device in a plurality of external devices, comprising an interface processing module configured to receive the image data and convert the image data into a format compatible with the at least one external device.

2.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, wherein the dental image data processing unit is configured to be connected to the external device via a wireless connection.

3.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, wherein the format is a DICOM format.

4.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising a network interface configured to connect the dental image data processing unit to a network.

5.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising an image enhancement module, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to receive the image data, enhance the image data, and provide the enhanced image data to the interface processing module.

6.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 5, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to at least one of reduce noise in the image data and remove artifacts from the image data.

7.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 5, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to adjust a plurality of brightnesses for a plurality of pixels across an output scale.

8.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 5, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to measure an amount of noise in the image data and select a filter according to the measured noise.

9.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising a sensor interface for receiving the image data from a sensor, wherein the sensor interface is compatible with multiple types of sensors.

10.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising a memory configured to receive image data and store image data.

11.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising a dedicated display configured to display an image corresponding to the image data.

12.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 11, wherein the dedicated display receives the image data via a wireless connection.

13.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 1, further comprising an external interface configured to receive the image data from the interface processing module and transmit the image data to the at least one external device.

14.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 13, wherein the external interface comprises a PC card interface and an Ethernet interface.

15.   A dental image data processing unit according to claim 13, wherein the external interface comprises a wireless communication interface.

16.   A data processing unit for a dental imaging system, comprising:
       a sensor interface configured to connect to a dental sensor;

an image processing component connected to the sensor interface and configured to receive a set of image data via the sensor interface and to process the set of image data to generate a set of processed image data; and

an interface processing module configured to receive the processed image data from the image processing component and to provide data in multiple formats.

17.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the interface processing module is configured to be connected to an external device via a wireless connection.

18.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the multiple formats include a DICOM format.

19.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, further comprising a network interface configured to connect the data processing unit to a network.

20.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the image processing component is configured to at least one of reduce noise in the image data and remove artifacts from the image data.

21.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the image processing component is configured to adjust a plurality of brightnesses for a plurality of pixels across an output scale.

22.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the image processing component is configured to measure an amount of noise in the image data and select a filter according to the measured noise.

23.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, wherein the sensor interface is compatible with multiple types of sensors.

24.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, further comprising a memory connected to the configured to receive image data and store image data.

25.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, further comprising a dedicated display configured to display an image corresponding to the image data.

26.   A data processing unit according to claim 25, wherein the dedicated display receives the image data via a wireless connection.

27.   A data processing unit according to claim 16, further comprising an external interface configured to receive the image data from the interface processing module and transmit the image data to at least one external device.

28.   A data processing unit according to claim 27, wherein the external interface comprises a PC card interface and an Ethernet interface.

29.   A data processing unit according to claim 27, wherein the external interface comprises a wireless communication interface.

30.   An imaging system for providing data to multiple external devices, comprising:
        a dental sensor; and
        a data processing unit, wherein the data processing unit is configured to:
                receive data from the sensor; and
                provide the data to the multiple external devices in multiple formats
        compatible with the multiple external devices.

31.   An imaging system according to claim 30, wherein the data processing unit is configured to be connected to the multiple external devices via a wireless connection.

32.   An imaging system according to claim 30, wherein at least one of the multiple formats is a DICOM format.

33.   An imaging system according to claim 30, further comprising a network interface configured to connect the data processing unit to a network.

34.   An imaging system according to claim 30, wherein the data processing unit further comprises an image enhancement module configured to enhance the data.

35.   An imaging system according to claim 34, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to at least one of reduce noise in the data and remove artifacts from the data.

36.   An imaging system according to claim 34, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to adjust a plurality of brightnesses for a plurality of pixels across an output scale.

37.   An imaging system according to claim 34, wherein the image enhancement module is configured to measure an amount of noise in the data and select a filter according to the measured noise.

38.   An imaging system according to claim 30, further comprising a sensor interface for receiving the data from the dental sensor, wherein the sensor interface is compatible with multiple types of dental sensors.

39.   An imaging system according to claim 30, wherein the data processing unit further comprises a memory configured to receive data and store data.

40.   An imaging system according to claim 30, further comprising a dedicated display connected to the data processing unit and configured to display an image corresponding to the data.

41.   An imaging system according to claim 40, wherein the dedicated display receives the data via a wireless connection.

42.   An imaging system according to claim 30, wherein the data processing unit further comprises an external interface configured to receive the data and transmit the data to the multiple external devices.

43.   An imaging system according to claim 42, wherein the external interface comprises a PC card interface and an Ethernet interface.

44.   An imaging system according to claim 42, wherein the external interface comprises a wireless communication interface.

45.   A method of acquiring dental image data relating to a target, comprising:
        generating a set of image data corresponding to the image of the target;
        converting the image data into a format compatible with a selected external device in a set of accessible external devices; and
        providing the image data in the compatible format to the selected external device.

46.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, further comprising enhancing the image data to generate a set of enhanced image data.

47.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 46, wherein enhancing the image data comprises at least one of reducing noise in the image data and removing artifacts from the image data.

48.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 46, wherein enhancing the image data comprises adjusting a plurality of brightnesses for a plurality of pixels across an output scale.

49.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 46, wherein enhancing the image data comprises:

measuring an amount of noise in the image data; and

selecting a filter level according to the measured amount of noise.

50.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, further comprising storing the image data in a local memory.

51.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, further comprising displaying an image corresponding to the image data on a dedicated display.

52.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 51, wherein displaying the image includes transmitting the image data to the dedicated display via a wireless connection.

53.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 51, wherein displaying the image includes transmitting the image data to the dedicated display via a wireless connection.

54.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, wherein providing the image data includes providing the image data to the selected external device via a wireless connection.

55.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, wherein the compatible format is a DICOM format.

56.   A method of acquiring dental image data according to claim 45, wherein:

converting the image data comprises converting the image data into a network format; and

providing the image data includes providing the image data to the selected external device via a network.